(b) whether any assessment has been made in this regard:

(c) if so. the details thereof including the estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon: and

(d) the steps taken and proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d). Assessment for developing the present National Highway No. 8 between Ahmedabad and Bombay into four lane road has been made and development is being taken up in selected stretches. The details thereof are as under :

(i) 106 km. are alreay four laned.

(ii) Four laning of 157 Km. costing Rs. 224.70 crores stands sanctioned under 30 road/ bridge projects and is at various stages of progress.

(iii) Four laning of 16 Km. at an estimated cost of Rs. 19.35 crores is proposed to be taken up during Annual Plan 1996-97.

[Translation]

Visit of PM of Sri Lanka

2949. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Prime Minister of Sri Lanka had visited India recently:

(b) if so. the details of talks held by her with Indian leaders: and

(c) the extent to which the friendly relationship of India-Sri Lanka is likely to be effected?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka visited India in the first week of July. The visit was a purely personal visit.

(b) No official talks were held during her visit.

(c) Does not arise.

Production of Defence Spare Parts

2950. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Director General. Quality Assurances has started production of the defence spare parts in the country itself with the assistance of domestic industries.

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) the value of such spare parts supplied by the domestic industries: and

(d) the value of foreign exchange saved as a result of the production of these spare parts in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b). Yes. Sir. About 6000 industrial units are in the compendium of DGQA.

(c) and (d). From 1965 upto 31 March 1996. stores valued at about Rs. 2000 crore have been supplied through the efforts of DGQA. This is the value of ab-initio developmental orders. The follow up orders on this by the three services would be many times more. Over 55000 items have thus been indigenised. It is not possible to accurately indicate the foreign exchange saved except to say that it would be much more than Rs. 2000 crore which was incurred in developing the items indigenously.

[English]

Inland Water Navigation in Kerala

2951. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken so far by the Government for development of Inland Water Navigation in Kerala;

(b) whether the Government have received any representation from Kerala for the Inland Water Navigation; and

(c) if so. the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) As a result of various survey and studies conducted by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), on the entire length of the West Coast Canal between Kovalam and Kasergode during the period from 1987 to 1992. the stretch of the West Coast Canal from Kollam to Kottapuram (168 Kms), the Champakara Canal (14 Kms) and the Udyogmandal Canal (23 Kms) have been declared as a National Waterway-III with effect from 1st February, 1993. The IWAI is implementing various developmental works like dredging. channel marking etc. in this National Waterway for improving and maintaining its navigability. Navigational locks in the Waterway are being maintained in operational condition. During the period from 1993-94 to 1995-96, a total quantity of 3.44 lakhs cu. meters were dredged. During the year 1995-96, an expenditure of Rs. 97.00 lakhs was incurred in the development of this National Waterway in Kerala against an approved outlay of Rs. 100.00 lakhs.